

Fifty Years of Flatout Rock 'n' Roll by Billy Poore A CD Review by Steve Yohe



50 Years of Flatout Rock'n'Roll

Billy Poore

1961 - 2011



Last year at the request of many of his friends, Billy Poore compiled a sampling of his recordings from his 50 year career. The CD includes a variety of styles of music from 1961-2011. The order of the 24 cuts is

somewhat random, so for the purposes of this review, I took a more chronological approach.

The early cuts all feature Billy on lead vocal except the teen/doo-wop favorite "I'm So Young," which was released when he was with the Trend-dells on Tilt. Its flip side has Billy rocking with "Don't You Hear Me Calling Baby." Two good mid-tempo cuts with the group are "Moments like This" and "Ain't It Funny." These recordings were from 1961-'62. Also in '61, he sang lead on one of my favorites from the CD, "It'll Be Easy," a really nice ballad that Tilt released by the Sultans. Rounding out the noteworthy cuts from this period is another group harmony ballad, "Sleep Tight," released as by The Kid on Rumble Records.

In 1964 he recorded "Lonely Wait," an effective Elvis-tinged teen sound released as by the Recalls. This was followed in 1965 by unreleased Rumble recordings of the teen-oriented "My World" and a well-done remake of Fats Domino's "Three Nights a Week."

In 1977 he was persuaded to record several of Elvis' hits. Three are included in the CD, the best of which being his take on "Little Sister." Of the other two rock and roll classics included from this period, the more effective one is "Flying Saucer Rock 'n' Roll."

Of the tracks from 1980-'81, two are especially good. "Love Is a Mystery" is a solid rocker. I was especially taken aback by "Wrong's What I Do Best," first because it's the lone pure country cut and second because it's a cleverly constructed song. In a recent interview Billy said it's from his "Waylon Jennings phase." I detect a bit of Buddy Holly influence in the vocal style as well.

Then there are the two cuts from the 1990's! While the title cut "Flatout Rock 'n' Roll" lives up to its name, the wildest rocker in the entire CD is "A Whole Lotta Racket." Billy recalls that when Charlie Feathers heard "Racket" Charlie said, "You're every bit as good as Billy Lee Riley at screaming on key!"

There are also three cuts from Billy's 2011 Last of the Renegades CD, which I reviewed at its release, and a bonus cut by daughter Stacey Poore Evans, Elvis' "If You Talk in Your Sleep," a solidly produced, unreleased 2012 effort with a strong organ and horn arrangement. Since many of the master recordings of the earlier songs were lost in a fire several years ago, Billy had to work with the best available sources supplied by his friends. As a result, the quality of some of the tracks is uneven. Still, the CD is worthy of adding to the collection of anyone who likes a wide variety of rockabilly, teen/doo-wop, and "Flatout Rock 'n' Roll."



KEY NOTES

PUBLISHED BY KEYSTONE RECORD COLLECTORS
P.O. Box 10532, Lancaster PA 17605 | 717-898-1246 | recordcollectors.org

JUNE 2013
ISSUE #197
Inside...
- Early member remembered
- Billy Poore CD reviewed
- Kenny Vance update
- Eddie Rambeau story
and more!



RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Spring has sprung! (After a winter that wasn't going to let up from many cold days.) The warmer days brings outdoor activities, concerts, Bar B Que's, car cruises and more. It also is a great time to visit the **Pennsylvania Music Expo**.

Apologies to the two dozen folks who showed up Mother's Day Sunday. Since 2012, we have moved the May show to the first Sunday. (Easter is the only other time.)

The shows this year have all been strong. Attendance is up - many new faces in both of our showrooms. (It doesn't hurt that the fine folks from the Continental Inn have our message on the marquee on BOTH SIDES the week before EACH show!)

Keep collecting those tunes!

Derek

B. Derek Shaw
KEY-NOTES Editor
& Communications
bdshaw@lunginfo.org

VIEW FROM THE TOP



A tip of the hat to club Vice President, **Eddie Collins** for putting a great effort into making our April, 2013 show one of the best ones in the history of the Keystone Record Collectors! Vendors reported good sales and the crowd was steady throughout the day. We hope to have a lot more shows like that!

Lets all have a happy and safe summer! Keep looking for those records!

Dave Schmidt
2013 KRC President
NRCMusings@aol.com

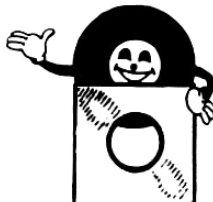
LONGTIME KRC VENDOR HELPED WITH LATEST EDITION

The 2013 hardbound edition (first time ever) of the New "Rockin Records" price guide is out. **Tom Grosh** spent countless hours refining prices and photo label scanning on The Rolling Stones - since it is their 50th anniversary and featured on the cover. The hardcover price is \$59.00. **Tom** will have them for sale at his tables at the show for a special introductory price of \$49.00. Thanks **Tom!**



KRC PRESENTS KENNY VANCE WITH "OPERATION: PLANOTONE" EFFORTS

A sincere note of gratitude to everyone who contributed records and memorabilia late last year and early this year to our 'Operation: Planotone' project. They were collected to help Kenny Vance regain mementos from his career lost during Superstorm Sandy. KRC Vice President **Eddie Collins** presented the materials to Kenny on stage at his April 21st show with The Planotones at Sellersville Theater, Sellersville, PA. Our efforts were very heartfelt by Kenny, according to a member of his managerial staff, "It was such a huge gesture of kindness by KRC, and quite an undertaking, as Kenny was deeply touched." Kenny will be visiting us at a future **Pennsylvania Music Expo**, at a date to be announced.



If someday we all go to prison for downloading music, I just hope they split us by the music genre.



197 June, 2013 Like us on Facebook!

"A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of music collecting"



EARLY KRC MEMBER PASSES



Ed Humphrey, Jr. (1943-2013) was one of the founding members of the Keystone Record Collectors, when the club was chartered in October, 1979. Ed's interests in music date back to high school when he bought his first record, "Get A Job" by The Silhouettes at White's Record Shop in York. While attending William Penn High School, he wrote a column for the school paper called *Record Review*. During that period of his life he listened to Doc Dougherty every Saturday morning on WORK-AM 1350 Radio. The show featured great doo-wop and black group rock and roll.

Ed enlisted in the Air Force in 1961, and married his wife Linda in 1962. They lived in Belleville, Illinois for three years, during which time the record collection continued to grow by visiting juke box resale shops. Ed and Linda shared a passion for the music, and would pass the time by listening to 45s, knowing what label the songs were on, and even the color of the label. The collection continued to grow, even until the time of his death. He had great knowledge and loved his collection of vinyl, which included rock and roll, doo-wop, blues, instrumentals, country, and rock-a-billy.

The couple attended all of the KRC sponsored dances in the early years of the club, and they celebrated 50 years of marriage by going to an oldies dance earlier this year. In addition to the KRC, Ed was active in the Lost And Found Record Review organization.



KEYNOTES

Issue #197 - June, 2013

EDITOR, GRAPHICS and LAYOUT: **B. Derek Shaw**
 CONTRIBUTORS: **Eddie Collins**, Linda Humphrey, Bob Bingaman
 PHOTOS: **Eddie Collins**, **Phil Schwartz**,
 CHANGE OF ADDRESS: P.O. Box 10532, Lancaster, PA 17605
 NEWS/PHOTOS/IDEAS: 329 Rathton Road, York, PA 17403-3933
 bshaw@lunginfo.org
(Deadline for KEY NOTES#198 is July 14th)
 Names in **bold** type are members of Keystone Record Collectors

KRC in 2013

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

THE CONTINENTAL INN

FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE, SO TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!
 ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.
 BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS EVERY OTHER SHOW AT 3:30PM,
 (DURING THE MONTH THERE IS NO **KEY NOTES**) PLAN TO BE THERE.

GOODBYE GOOD FRIEND

I've been asked to write a few lines on how Ed Humphrey and I became good friends.

It started one afternoon, about five years ago. Ed and I were sitting at the bar at Jackie B's, in York. I was singing (under my breath) a song I hadn't heard since my high school days, 1958-60. We used to go to a dance every Saturday night at the YMCA called "Teen-Can-Teen". Most of the kids went to York High, which at the time was about 70% white and 30% black. This influenced our taste in music a great deal. They played mostly black and some white doo-wop and R&B. I was singing a song called "The Fires Burn No More," but I could not remember who made the record. Ed, who was sitting next to me, told me the artist was The Chesters on Apollo and the lead singer was Little Anthony who later became "Little Anthony & the Imperials."

I was so impressed with Ed's knowledge of doo-wop and R&B that we became fast friends, having many long conversation about this subject. We would meet every Tuesday and Friday to discuss music.

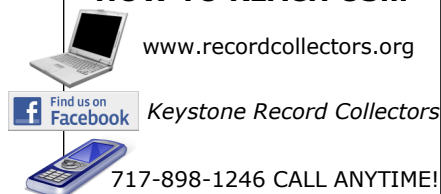
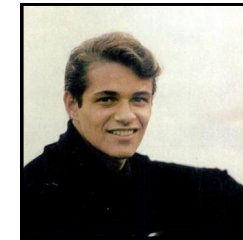
Sometimes Ed would bring me a few records and put them in front of me. I would ask how much I owed him and he would say, "Nothing, I had duplicates and you may have these."

Since we both had the same interest in the type of music we liked, Ed asked me if I would be interested in a club he belonged to called "The Lost & Found Record Review", which meets in the back room of a local bar the first Sunday evening of each month. I said I would be interested and have been attending every month for the past two years.

Ed passed away March 31st at the age of 70. I will miss him greatly. As I walked into the funeral home, I was not surprised to hear, "Desire" by the Charts playing over the speakers. Goodbye Good Friend.

- Bob Bingaman

HOW TO REACH US...

FROM KING COAL TO CONCRETE AND CLAY AND BEYOND
THE EDDIE RAMBEAU STORY Part 1 By Eddie Collins

If there was a special formula for success, no one knows it better than Eddie Rambeau, who scored a string of hit records as a performer, and as prolific songwriter, establishing a catalog of chart successes that helped to define, the 'girl group sound' of the 1960's.

Hailing from the coal region of Hazleton PA, Edward Cletus Fluri (nowadays known as Ed Rambeau) had his ears filled with music, and intriguing him early on, was the voice of Johnnie Ray. Before he could even read, Eddie studied the colors of those Okeh, and Columbia labels in his sister Joan's record collection, devising his own unique way in memorizing the song titles.

In 1950, at the age of seven, it became apparent that this kid was destined to become a singer. As Eddie's mother Agnes recalled at the Fluri home in 2007, "He told us he was going to be singing at a festival at Hazle Park, I had no idea what to expect, so we stood way in the back, but when his little mouth opened, we couldn't believe what we heard!"

It wouldn't be long until Eddie performed on Ted Mack's Amateur Hour, and at many of the local record hops, before meeting Jim Ward a disc jockey with WBRE radio, who would propel Eddie's career into motion. Wasting no time, Ward arranged an audition with Swan Records head Bernie Binnick. Impressed by the young singer's vocal talents, but puzzled in which direction to market him, Binnick blurted, "What are we going to do with a white Johnny Mathis?" A name change was now imminent, hence Eddie Rambeau.

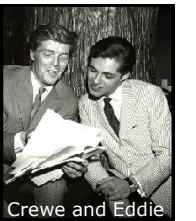
Nevertheless, on the day he graduated from Hazleton High School in June, 1961, Eddie's first record "Skin Divin" (Swan 4077) was released, which gained much airplay on the east coast. His follow up single in 1962 "My Four Leaf Clover Love," initiated a long time songwriting collaboration with Bud Rehak, and later that year the team would pen "The Push & Kick" which shot to #27 on Billboard's chart in December for Swan label mate, Mark Valentino.



← Eddie with Bud Rehak

which created a conflict of interest preventing airplay on that network's radio and television affiliates. Ironically, Barris would later resurrect the song as a theme for 'The Newlywed Game.' Riding out his stint on the Swan label, in 1963 Eddie paired up for a few singles with Pittsburgh's Marcy Jo (Sockel), resulting in "The Car Hop & The Hardtop" and "Those Golden Oldies."

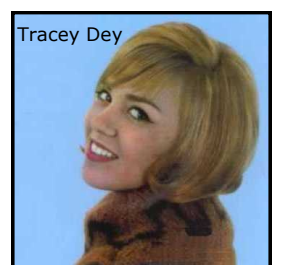
While recording under the Swan banner, Eddie developed a strong association with his producer Frank Slay, who in turn would introduce him to Bob Crewe. Having established himself as the creative force behind the success of The Four Seasons, Crewe now saw great promise in signing Eddie Rambeau as an artist, in addition to inking a contract with Eddie and his songwriting partner Bud Rehak, to craft hit songs for his stable of artists.



Crewe and Eddie



Almost immediately, it looked like Rambeau & Rehak were going to become the next Leiber & Stoller, striking paydirt in late 1963, as their tunes were being recorded by Dee Dee Sharp ("Deep Dark Secret"), Tracey Dey ("Here Comes The Boy"), Shirley Mathews ("Big Town Boy"), The Sheppard Sisters ("I've Got A Secret"), and others. Eventually in 1964, Bob Crewe finally gave Eddie and Bud the 'green light' in contributing to the songbook of his prized Jersey Boys, as "Only Yesterday" would be featured on The Four Seasons "Dawn (Go Away)" album.



Editor's Note: Coming in Part 2, August issue of KEY-NOTES: Rambeau and Rehak score a million seller for Diane Renay, plus the double edged sword of "Concrete & Clay".